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BLADY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

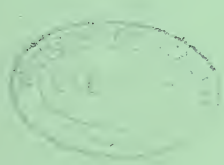
for the

YEAR 1952

H. TEMPLE PHILLIPS
M.D.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

and

JOHN J. GALSWORTHY,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



September, 1953.

Council Offices,
Narborough,
Leicestershire.

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BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

(Appointed May 1952)

Mr. T. H. H. Potter (Chairman of the Committee),
Mr. G. W. Sharpe (Vice-Chairman),
Mr. J. H. Bent,
Mr. A. A. Bishop,
Mr. F. G. Butlin (Chairman of the Council),
Mr. S. Callington,
Mr. W. Coley,
Mr. A. E. Dalby,
Mrs. G. E. Frears,
Mr. F. M. Griffin,
Mr. R. Harris,
Mr. J. W. Herrick,
Mr. W. J. Leedham,
Mr. A. Pedley,
Mrs. D. K. Pope,
Mr. T. H. Smith,
Mr. J. Snape,
Mr. F. E. Swinfen,
Mr. G. A. Underwood, J.P.,
Mr. S. W. Vesty,
Mr. F. H. Webb, M.C.,
Mr. W. Wedge,
Mr. L. Wells,
Mr. H. Yates.

Public Health Department

Officers and Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

H. Temple Phillips, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

John J. Galsworthy, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

A. J. Slipp, M.S.I.A.,
R. R. Blaylock, M.S.I.A.

Clerks:

Mrs. S. Q. Tipler (part-time),
Miss S. M. Carter,
Miss M. R. Needham.

Rodent Operator and General Assistant:

G. E. Hunt.

February, 1953.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Narborough,
Leicestershire.

To the Chairman and Members of the Blaby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of your district for the year 1952.

This was the first full year during which I was your Medical Officer of Health, and, I regret to say, it will also be my last, as I have been appointed to a post under the City of Bristol, and expect to relinquish my present duties at the end of March 1953. My memories of Blaby will always be happy, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the Council and my fellow officers for their unfailing courtesy and co-operation during my term of office. In particular, I must again acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose assistance is always so readily forthcoming.

This report appears much earlier in the year than is usual, as I felt that it would be unreasonable to expect my successor to report on a year for which he was not in office. The report is of necessity incomplete, as the figures for vital statistics (population, births, deaths, infant mortality, etc.) are not received from the Registrar-General until towards the middle of the year. This and certain other information will have to be published later in the year as a supplement to this report.

There is little in the report which calls for special comment, and I think that the health of the district can be said to have been well maintained during 1952. The continued freedom from diphtheria is a matter for great thankfulness, and is undoubtedly due to the widespread practice of immunisation. There is a danger, however, that as diphtheria becomes a comparatively rare disease, the public may become complacent about it, and the success of the immunisation campaign should be widely publicised, and used as an incentive to further efforts against this dread disease. As recently as 1940 there were 53 cases and five deaths from diphtheria during the year. The incidence of infectious disease is further discussed in the body of the report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. Temple Phillips,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are the final corrected figures for notifiable diseases during 1952 :-

Scarlet Fever	34
Whooping Cough	104
Diphtheria	0
Measles	276
Acute Pneumonia	40
Cerebrospinal Fever	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1 (paralytic)
Dysentery	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Enteric Fever	0
Food Poisoning	13
Erysipelas	7
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	24
Tuberculosis, Other	11

The following table shows the incidence of these diseases over the past ten years :-

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
So. Fever	63	134	94	70	78	61	70	28	34	34
Wh. Cough	151	43	27	140	78	175	197	118	176	104
Diphtheria	11	12	16	8	5	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	23	20	17	23	35	24	29	22	38	40
C. S. Fever	6	3	5	4	3	2	1	0	1	1
Poliomyelitis	0	0	1	0	7	0	6	19	1	1
Dysentery	0	7	4	8	0	1	2	73	33	30
Oph. Neonat.	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Puerp. Pyrexia	4	3	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Food Poisoning								5	10	13
Erysipelas	9	14	15	12	3	5	11	4	4	7
TB - Pulmonary	24	35	18	18	11	19	30	20	23	24
TB - Other	14	7	3	4	14	11	7	5	10	11
Measles	489	32	657	23	461	164	611	251	712	276

Diphtheria

For the fourth year in succession, there was no confirmed case of diphtheria in the district. Two cases were notified during the year, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Measles

The incidence of measles was considerably lighter than in 1951, though a large number of cases were occurring in Braunstone and Glen Parva at the end of the year.

Pneumonia

I have been struck by the apparent high incidence of pneumonia in Cosby, and, to a lesser extent, Blaby, in comparison with the rest of the district. The notifications for the year were as follows:-

Blaby	10
Cosby	21
Enderby	1
Kirby Muxloe	1
Narborough	2
Sharnford	2
Whetstone	3

It will be seen that more than half the notifications were from the village of Cosby, where population represents less than a twentieth of that of the whole district.

Having investigated this matter, however, I am satisfied that there is no evidence that the incidence of pneumonia is any higher in these villages than elsewhere, and that the apparently higher incidence is merely due to the fact that the disease is more frequently notified by the doctors in this part of the district. Many cases of pneumonia go un-notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There was again only one case of "polio" during 1952 - this being a girl of fifteen at Whetstone, employed as a hosiery operative in Leicester.

Dysentery

Thirty notifications were received in connection with an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at the Countesthorpe Children's Home early in the year. The outbreak was quickly brought under control as a result of concerted efforts by the Health Department of Leicester City (who are responsible for the Home), the Public Health Laboratory Service, and the Health Department of this Council.

Food Poisoning

Thirteen cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

Seven cases occurred at the end of December 1951, but the notifications were received too late for the inclusion in the returns for that year. The outbreak was traced to pork pies infected with an organism of the Salmonella group - probably Salmonella Minnesota. The pork pies were found to have come from Northampton, and it is assumed that they were infected there, as a number of similar cases were reported from that city.

Two cases were reported from Blaby during January 1952 for which the cause was not determined. The patients attributed their illness to tinned pork, but no definite evidence was found to support this.

Three cases occurred at Blaby during June, again caused by an organism of the Salmonella group (Salmonella Enteritidis Jena). The outbreak was presumed to be due to the consumption of infected duck eggs, but this could not be definitely proved.

One patient suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea was notified as food poisoning during August, but there was no evidence to incriminate any particular food.

Tuberculosis

The numbers of cases notified during 1952 compare closely with those for the previous year.

The numbers of cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year were as follows:-

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
93	72	23	25	116	97

Two families were re-housed on account of tuberculosis during the year.


NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 of this Act makes provision for the removal to suitable premises of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

If the Medical Officer of Health certifies in writing to the local Authority that he is satisfied that such conditions exist, the local Authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order for the removal of the person to a suitable hospital or other place.

One such case was dealt with during the year. This was that of an old lady aged 85, living alone at Croft, who was removed to "Hillcrest", Leicester on 20th June.



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GENERAL STATISTICS - 1952

Area of District	32,583 acres
Estimated Mid-Year Population	39,750
Number of Occupied Houses	12,106
Rateable Value (1st January, 1952)	£180,439
Sum Represented by 1d. Rate	£716

VITAL STATISTICS

		Blaby 1952			Blaby 1951		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	279	273	552	285	281	566
	Illegitimate	6	9	15	6	11	17
	Total	285	282	567	291	292	583
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	5	11	16	10	8	18
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5	11	16	10	8	18
DEATHS		163	171	339	207	189	396
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE (None were illegitimate)		8	6	14	11	5	16
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE		6	4	10	8	1	9

RATES CALCULATED FROM THE ABOVE FIGURES

	Blaby 1952	Blaby 1951	England & Wales 1952
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	14.3	14.8	15.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	27.4	30	22.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	8.5	10	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. Deaths Under 1 Year per 1,000 Live Births)	24.7	27.5	27.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate (i.e. Deaths Under 4 Weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	17.6	15.4	-

COMMENT ON STATISTICS

(by D. H. McFarland, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)
(Medical Officer of Health - July 1953)

Population

The estimated population of 39,750 is 230 greater than for 1951. This conforms to the general trend over a number of years and is due chiefly to the District's proximity to a large expanding city with migration into the less built up areas.

Births

The steady decline in the Birth Rate in the District during the last few years is not of local significance as this trend is obvious in the country as a whole. The Birth Rate of 14.3 is, however, lower than the rate for England and Wales. Of the live births, 2.6% were illegitimate and, although there were 16 still births, the rate of 27.4 per 1,000 total births is a reduction on the previous year's figure of 30, but slightly higher than that registered over the country as a whole.

Deaths

The death rate (all causes) for the year in the District is 8.5 per 1,000 population, which compares favourably with the rate of 11.3 for England and Wales as a whole. It is clear from the rates assessed over a number of years that the death rate for the area has varied little. The major causes of death were (1) heart diseases and diseases of the circulatory system, (2) vascular lesions of the nervous system and (3) cancer, in that order representing 37% of the total due to (1), 15% due to (2) and 14% due to (3). Of the 339 deaths during the year, 168 were males and 171 females, so there does not seem to be any sex selection in this sphere.

Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system have always been a major cause of death, but it should be pointed out that a number of deaths in this category include elderly people who really die of what may be termed "wear and tear". Deaths from cancer have tended to increase in number during recent years and a considerable amount of research is being done on this subject. The increase recorded by vital statistics is partly due to the increasing proportion of the population who survive to ages when cancer is more prevalent. This, however, accounts for only a small part of the increase and other factors which have been considered are:- improved methods of diagnosis; atmospheric pollution with the waste products of domestic and factory smoke; the exhaust fumes of vehicles, and the dust from tarred roads; and the smoking of tobacco. Much has been written recently about the relationship of smoking to bronchial cancer, and it is now pretty well established that cigarette smoking is a factor, but only a factor, in the production of cancer of the lung. It is doubtful whether cigarette smoking alone can produce a lung cancer, for lung cancer also occurs in non-smokers.

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth during the year and this is most creditable to the maternity services. Fourteen infants under the age of one year died during 1952, and of these, ten died before reaching four weeks. The big factor responsible for this is prematurity with broncho-pneumonia and congenital malformations also playing a part. The majority of infant deaths occur within one month of birth, and these are due to causes which are less responsive to preventive measures although improved methods of infant care and welfare have resulted in a reduction of deaths in the 1 - 12 months group. It is not possible to cite a specific cause of prematurity or of congenital malformations, but it is known that an adequate diet and careful and regular ante-natal supervision is of benefit as far as the incidence of prematurity is concerned. It is not inappropriate to mention at this stage that although vitamin supplements are available to all expectant mothers, what proportion avail themselves of these supplements?

A more detailed analysis of the causes of death is given in the following table.

Classification of Causes of Death in Dlabý R.D.C.

	1952			1951
	Male	Female	Total	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	4	8	9
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	0	2	3
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	1
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	2	2	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0	0
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	2	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	7	11	8
11. " " lung, bronchus	7	1	8	11
12. " " breast	0	4	4	6
13. " " uterus	0	1	1	3
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	12	23	36
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1	2
16. Diabetes	0	1	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	43	60	49
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	7	29	43
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	3	9	23
20. Other heart disease	36	34	70	72
21. Other circulatory disease	6	10	16	13
22. Influenza	1	2	3	14
23. Pneumonia	5	0	5	10
24. Bronchitis	9	8	17	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3	6	8
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis, & diarrhoea	0	0	0	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	3	5	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	17	16	33	43
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	2	8	3
34. All other accidents	0	4	4	3
35. Suicide	2	0	2	0
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0	0
ALL CAUSES	168	171	339	396

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Blaby.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit my tenth Annual Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

Following the practice established last year, my report is now combined with that of the Medical Officer of Health, thus enabling a complete report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District to be presented under one cover.

Now that Doctor H. Temple Phillips, who was your Medical Officer of Health for the year under review - 1952, has resigned to take up another appointment, I feel that I should express my pleasure in having been associated with him during his term of office with this Council, and also to say that I look forward to having the same happy relationship and mutual co-operation with his successor, the new Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. D. H. McFarland, who commenced his duties with this Council on 1st July, 1953.

Again I should like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and ready co-operation given by the other Officers and Staff, and to thank the Members of the Council for their support and interest at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John L. Gidwiley

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1953.

1. WATER SUPPLY

Mains Water Supplies

With the exception of the village of Thurlaston, and the hamlet of Aston Flamville, all the 18 villages in the 23 parishes in the Blaby Rural District had mains water supplies in 1952, and schemes are well advanced for these two remaining parishes to have mains supplies by the end of 1953.

The following 12 parishes are supplied with water by the Leicester Corporation Water Department.

Braunstone	Countesthorpe	Glen Parva	Narborough
Blaby	Enderby	Huncote	Whetstone
Cosby	Glenfield	Kirby Muxloe	Kilby

Blaby Rural District Council has its own water supply to the 5 parishes of -

Stoney Stanton, Sapcote, Elmesthorpe, Sharnford and Wigston Parva.

The parish of Croft is provided with a mains supply by the Croft Granite, Brick and Concrete Company Limited.

Quality of Mains Water Supplies

Samples of water are regularly taken from the three public supplies of piped water in the District and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, to ensure that they are maintained at a satisfactory degree of purity.

Analysis of Mains Water Supplies - 1952

Examination	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Chemical	22	22	0
Bacteriological	23	22	1

	Leicester Corporation	Blaby R.D.C.	Croft Granite Company
	Parts per 100,000		
Total Solids	12.0	94.0	210.0
Loss on ignition	2.0	10.0	40.0
Free Ammonia	0.0	0.0	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.008	0.006	0.005
Nitrogen	0.123	0.082	0.164
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	0.064	0.064	0.031
Chlorine	1.4	3.4	6.2
Hardness	7.0	57.0	70.0
	pH 7.8	pH 8.0	pH 7.8
Lead and Copper	Absent	Absent	Absent
Bacterial Count @ 37°C	7 organisms per CC	12 organisms per CC	11 organisms per CC
" " 22°C	40 " " "	60 " " "	60 " " "
Bacillus Coli @ 37°C	Absent in 10 CC's	Absent in 10 CC's	Absent in 10 CC's
Bacillus Coli 44°C	" " " "	" " " "	" " " "

Shortage of Supply

At periods of peak demand, the pressure of water drops resulting in a failure of the Leicester Corporation supply to certain parts of the District, particularly in the higher parts of Enderby, Countesthorpe, and Glen Hills.

The construction of a new water main to the Eyres Monsell Estate area to the South of Leicester, and a new storage reservoir at Enderby, now in progress, will no doubt improve conditions.

During the year 35 dwellings formerly served by stand-pipes were provided with separate indoor water taps.

Well Water Supply

At the end of 1952, five parishes in the District were still relying principally on well water supply.

Aston Flamville, Leicester Forest West, Lubbesthorpe, Potters Marston and Thurlaston.

With the exception of Thurlaston, however, these parishes are comparatively sparsely populated, but, even so, piped water supplies serve certain dwellings in these parishes.

As previously stated, water mains are being laid into the parishes of Aston Flamville and Thurlaston in 1953.

Examination of Well Water 1952

SAMPLES SATISFACTORY		SAMPLES NOT SATISFACTORY	
Chemical 1	Bacteriological 1	Chemical 1	Bacteriological 14

During the year 66 dwellings formerly served by 17 polluted wells, were provided with mains water supply.

Two wells were cleansed.

The following tables indicate the present water supply position in the District and in the various Parishes.

WATER SUPPLY FROM MAINS				WATER SUPPLY FROM WELLS	
Approximate Number of houses		Estimated Population		Approximate Number of houses	Estimated Population
11,645		38,220		461	1,530
Direct supply to house	By stand-pipes	Direct supply to house	By stand-pipes		
11,263	382	36,980	1,240		

1952

PARISH	Number of Occupied Premises	Estimated Population	Number of Houses on Mains Supply	Number of Houses with Water Direct to House	Number of Houses Served by Standpipes	Number of Houses Served by Wells
Aston Flamville	36	111	8	8	-	28
Blaby	953	3,048	937	890	47	16
Braunstone	2,823	8,924	2,823	2,823	-	-
Cosby	480	1,539	464	455	9	16
Countesthorpe	662	2,047	656	622	34	6
Croft	347	1,135	342	276	66	5
Elmesthorpe	103	342	93	93	-	10
Enderby	1,104	3,635	1,097	1,069	28	7
Glenfield	1,107	3,481	1,099	1,060	39	8
Glen Parva	990	3,089	986	986	-	4
Huncote	182	577	162	146	16	20
Kilby	85	250	44	44	-	41
Kirby Muxloe	877	2,988	869	868	1	8
Leicester Forest West	14	43	2	2	-	12
Lubbesthorpe	26	77	8	8	-	18
Narborough	765	3,480	757	755	2	8
Potters Marston	12	38	1	1	-	11
Sapcote	272	896	247	234	13	25
Sharnford	168	536	137	134	3	31
Stoney Stanton	423	1,430	408	327	81	15
Thurlaston	147	418	-	-	-	147
Whetstone	514	1,616	494	454	40	20
Wigston Parva	16	50	11	8	3	5
Total	12,106	39,750	11,645	11,263	382	461

2. SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE

The twelve largest villages in the District are provided with adequate public sewers, the sewage being dealt with at nine sewage disposal works.

Blaby and Whetstone, Braunstone, Cosby and Narborough, Countesthorpe, Croft and Huncote, Enderby, Glenfield, Glen Parva, Kirby Muxloe.

Good progress is being made in the laying of new sewers in Stoney Stanton, Sapcote and Sharnford, together with the construction of the new sewage works at Stoney Stanton to deal with the sewage from these three parishes.

Main drainage schemes for Kilby and Thurlaston have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

Sewerage schemes for Wigston Parva and Elmhurst have been deferred on the account of cost.

Schemes for the sewerage of the remainder of the streets on the Dominion Estate, Glenfield, for the sewerage of Willoughby Road, Countesthorpe, and for the drainage of ten houses on Hinckley Road, Aston Flamville have been approved for commencement in 1953.

The increase in sewage due to the erection of a considerable number of new houses, and the conversion of pail closets to water closets, has necessitated schemes for the extension of the Blaby and Whetstone sewage works, and the reconstruction of the Enderby sewage works being submitted to the Ministry.

Cesspools

Principally as a result of the sewerage of Liberty Road and Sports Road, Glenfield, it was possible to have 19 cesspools abolished during the year and the premises redrained to the public sewer.

The laying of foul sewers in the remaining roads on the Dominion Estate, Glenfield, Tournament Road, Triumph Road and Unity Road is expected to be commenced in 1953, and such would permit the abolition of a further 80 cesspools.

During the year 4 new cesspools were constructed to new dwellings erected on roads or sites where no foul sewers were available.

In general, cesspools cannot be considered to be a satisfactory method of drainage disposal, for although the Council has undertaken to empty cesspools to private dwellings in most parts of the District every three months, it is found that in the majority of cases the cesspools are of inadequate capacity and overflow within this period.

Such unsatisfactory conditions exist at groups of houses in various parts of the District, particularly where mains water supply is available at Elmhurst; Cambridge Road, Cosby; Thurlaston Lane, Croft; Cambridge Road, Whetstone; Warwick Road, Whetstone; and Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East, Kirby Muxloe.

Closet Conversions

Reasonably good progress has been made during the year in the conversion of pail closets to water closets.

It must be appreciated that where owners of premises have been prepared to co-operate with the Council and have conversions made, in parishes already sewered, the great majority of such conversions have now been carried out. In such parishes there only now remain these properties, the owners of which are not prepared to make such conversions voluntarily due to financial or other reasons, and at other sub-standard dwellings which have been graded for action under the Housing Act, at the earliest possible opportunity.

To encourage owners to make such conversions, the Council, under the provisions of Sub-Section 4, Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, upon application, allows a contribution towards the cost of half the actual cost of the work of conversion, but limiting the grant to a maximum of £7/10/- per conversion.

Year	Number of conversions
1945	43
1946	88
1947	120
1948	124
1949	140
1950	177
1951	233
1952	140

Applications received from owners for grants towards the cost of proposed conversions were 80 in 1952.

Pail Closets

The approximate number of pail closets in the various parishes in the District at the end of 1952

Aston Flanville	16	
Blaby	20	
Braunstone	3	
Cosby	13	
Countesthorpe	36	
Croft	101	
Elmesthorpe	13	
Enderby	53	
Glenfield	73	(including Dominion Estate)
Glen Parva	3	
Huncote	13	
Kilby	70	
Kirby Muxloe	12	
Leicester Forest West	2	
Lubbesthorpe	18	
Narborough	14	
Potters Marston	6	
Sapcote	229	
Sharnford	140	
Stoney Stanton	350	
Thurlaston	98	
Whetstone	69	
Wigston Parva	11	

1,363

With the anticipated completion of the new sewerage scheme for the three parishes of Stoney Stanton, Sapcote and Sharnford in 1953, it is expected that there will be a rush of conversions towards the end of the year.

Pail closets throughout the District are emptied weekly by direct labour, by the Cleansing Department, and the contents disposed of by treatment at the Council's central tip, and occasionally on suitable agricultural land for manurial purposes.

Sanitary Accommodation in Schools

During 1952 the pail closets at Huncote Church of England Infants School were converted into water closets, necessitating the redrainage of the premises to the public sewer.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Cleansing Department is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

House refuse is collected from all parishes in the District weekly and disposed of at one central tip by controlled tipping.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION

The number of complaints recorded in the Register during the year was 357. Defects or nuisances totalling 575 were dealt with at 471 premises.

Inspections and Revisits

Bakehouses	9	
Dairies	93	
Drainage Work	2,264	
Dwelling Houses	2,134	
Factories and Workplaces	67	
Food Premises	579	
Infectious Disease Enquiries	164	
Food Poisoning Enquiries	8	
Keeping of Animals	17	
Piggeries	96	
Moveable Dwellings	38	
Refuse and Accumulations	108	
Rodent Infestation	73	(excluding visits made by)
Schools	10	(Rodent Operator)
Shops	6	
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection)	39	
Smoke Nuisances	18	
Verminous and dirty premises	13	
Water supplies	137	
Water courses and ditches	52	
Storage of Petroleum	37	
Unclassified	348	

Total	6,310
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Rodent Control	4,291
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Grand Total	10,601
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Notices

Preliminary or Informal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	249 *	59
Issued during year	404 *	67
Complied with during year	258 *	81
Statutory action necessary	12	6
Outstanding 31st December	395 *	45

* These include informal notices requiring conversion of pail closets to water closets and also informal notices requiring improvements at Food Premises.

Total Informal Notices issued	471
Total Informal Notices complied with	339

Statutory or Formal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	1	2
Issued during year	12	6
Complied with during year	9	6
Outstanding 31st December	4	2

5. SHOPS

The provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 are enforceable by the District Council. This section provides for the health and comfort of workers in shops, and relates particularly to the provision of satisfactory ventilation, heating and sanitary accommodation at shop premises.

Although there are 267 shops in the District, the great majority are small family businesses, employing no shop assistants, to which the provisions of this section of the Act do not apply.

When inspections are made at food shops, regard is also given to the requirements of the Shops Act; but such inspections are not recorded as Shops Act inspections unless some contravention of the Act is found.

Actual inspections made under the Shops Act were 6 during the year. One contravention of the Act, inadequate sanitary accommodation, was found and dealt with by informal action.

6. REGULATED PREMISES

There are no particular premises to which special regulations apply, such as Common Lodging Houses and Offensive Trades, in the District.

Details of action with regard to Tents, Vans and Sheds etc. are given in the section in this report under the heading Moveable Dwellings.

7. VERMINOUS PREMISES

No case was found of infestation by bugs during the year.

Three dwellings were treated for flea infestation.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

No nuisance was observed from the emission of smoke from any chimney stack during the year.

Several complaints were received in connection with the burning of leather scrap, and action was taken for the discontinuance of such practice.

Several complaints were received of the offensive smell arising from the cooking of pig food at certain piggeries in the District.

Following the service of a Statutory Notice requiring the abatement of a nuisance, certain alterations were made to the cooking plant in one case, which brought about considerable improvement.

The offensive odour from such cooking is sometimes of an intermittent nature dependent upon weather and other conditions, and upon a visit being made directly after the receipt of a complaint it was often found that the smell, although discernible at the premises, was not in evidence in the vicinity to such a degree as to constitute a nuisance.

9. RODENT CONTROL

For the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council maintains a Rodent Destruction Service, employing a Rodent Operator, provided with a light van.

Treatment for the destruction of rats at private dwellings is carried out free of charge as a public service, but full charges are made for work on any business premises or agricultural land.

All premises and properties owned by the Council are regularly surveyed and treated for the destruction of rats and mice when found necessary.

Surface Treatments 1952

		Council Premises	Private Dwellings	Agricultural Premises	Business or other Premises	TOTAL
Complaints Received		-	76	6	10	92
Premises Inspected		56	3,097	38	86	3,277
Premises Infested	Major π	-	-	3	1	4
	Minor	16	141	6	12	175
	Mice	-	9	-	4	13
Premises Treated		16	150	9	17	192
Bodies Found		104	135	177	46	462

π An infestation estimated to exceed 20 rats is classed as a Major Infestation.

In most cases of rat infestation at private dwellings, the sources of the infestations were found to be in the gardens, particularly in the vicinity of fowl runs.

The shops and factories in the District appear to be comparatively free from rat infestation, but fairly heavy infestations were found on piggeries, small holdings and farm premises.

Regular treatments are necessary at the ten Sewage Disposal Works in the District, which tend to become infested at certain periods, particularly in late Autumn and early Spring.

The Council's Refuse Tip at Enderby is maintained remarkably free from infestation due to the efficient method of controlled tipping, and constant attention.

During the year, the Rodent Operator made a total of 4,291 visits in connection with rodent control.

Sewer Treatments

The foul sewers in fifteen parishes in the District are regularly treated at six-monthly intervals for rodent destruction by baiting in the manholes.

Test baiting of the sewers in Braunstone, Cosby, Glenfield and Glen Parva over several years has shown them to be practically free from infestation.

In the other parishes only certain sections are found to be infested, and the degree of infestation varies, being generally heavier during the winter months

Sewer Treatment M2/51 (Winter 1951 - 52)

Parish	Total Number of Manholes	Manholes Baited	Manholes Bait Taken	Manholes Test - Baited
BLADY	85	17	2	-
BRAUNSTONE	190	5	0	36
COSBY	57	13	0	13
COUNTERTHORPE	68	23	5	-
CROFT	40	20	0	-
ENDERBY	81	5	4	14
GLENFIELD	116	17	0	17
GLEN PARVA	75	20	0	20
HUNCOTE	21	16	5	-
KIRBY MUXLOE	143	15	3	26
NARDOROUGH (including (Littlethorpe)	71	26	3	8
SAPCOTE	9	6	4	-
SHARNFORD	8	7	0	-
STONEY STANTON	19	10	2	-
WHETSTONE	31	7	1	7
TOTAL	1,014	207	29	141

Where there has been no evidence of infestation in sections of sewers on previous treatments, test-baiting is carried out yearly in approximately one tenth of the manholes in the area.

FOOD INSPECTION and SUPERVISION

10. MILK SUPPLY

Dairies

There are now 10 registered Dairies in the District, to which 37 visits were made during the year.

In general the dairies are of satisfactory construction and maintained satisfactorily.

One informal notice was issued requiring structural improvements.

Milk is processed by pasteurisation at two dairies in the District.

1. Dairy, King Street, Enderby,
Enderby Co-operative Society Ltd.

An "H.T.S.T." plant at these premises pasteurises approximately 380 gallons of milk daily, the milk coming from 13 local farms.

2. Dairy, Huncote Road, Stoney Stanton,
R. J. Lever.

Approximately 120 gallons of milk are pasteurised daily at these premises by the "Holder" process. The milk is received from 2 local farms.

Milk Distribution

The number of Distributors of milk on the Register in the District at the end of 1952 was

Producer-Retailers (milk produced in District)	12
Distributors (from premises in District)	11
Distributors (from premises outside District)	12
Total	35

Milk Licences

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 the Council issued the following licences

Dealers Licences

Tuberculin Tested	-	4	(Raw Milk) Regulations)
Pasteurised	-	8	{ (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations}
Sterilised	-	2	
also T.T. Pasteurised	-	1	

Supplementary Licences

to Distributors retailing milk in the Dlabý Rural District from premises outside the District.

Tuberculin Tested	-	6	(Raw Milk) Regulations)
Pasteurised	-	12	{ (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations}
Sterilised	-	6	
also T.T. Pasteurised	-	7	

Milk Samples

Samples of milk are regularly taken from milk supplies in the District and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples 1952

Class of Milk	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Designated (Tuberculin Tested)	14	14	0
Accredited	9	9	0
(Pasteurised)	25	24	1
Ordinary	36	33	3
Totals	84	80 (95%)	4 (5%)

Biological Examination of Milk Samples

All supplies of raw milk retailed in the District are sampled twice yearly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination to determine if any supply is infected with Tuberculosis or Brucella Abortus, the latter being the causal organism of Undulant Fever in man.

Number of Samples taken	Satisfactory	Infected with M. Tuberculosis	Infected with B. Abortus	Spoilt during examination
45	39	0	3	3

Investigations were made into the three cases where the supplies were infected with Brucella Abortus.

Case I

The original sample was taken from a Distributor who obtained a small quantity of raw milk from a Producer in the District. The bulk of the milk from this Producer was being sent in to a dairy for pasteurising.

Arrangements were made through the Regional Officer of the Milk Marketing Board for all the milk from this herd to be sent in for pasteurising, and the Distributor to be supplied with pasteurised milks for retail.

Case II

In this case the original sample was obtained from a Producer-Retailer in the District.

Individual samples were taken from each of the 13 cows in the herd and the infected cow discovered. This cow was removed from the herd and sent in for slaughter.

After the cow had been removed from the herd a further report was received from the Laboratory that the strain of Brucella isolated from the sample of milk taken from the infected cow was Brucella Melitensis - a more virulent form of the organism.

Case III

Again in this case the original sample was taken from a local Producer-Retailer.

Follow-up samples were taken from each of the 20 cows in the herd, and eventually one cow was found to be infected.

This cow was removed from the herd and eventually slaughtered.

Excellent co-operation was received from the three farmers, producing the milk in these cases, and accordingly it was not necessary to take any formal action for the stoppage of the raw milk supply.

11. ICECREAM

The number of premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in respect of icecream -

Manufacture and Sale of Icecream	-	9
Manufacture only	-	0
Retail Sale	-	51

Although 9 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of icecream, no icecream is manufactured therein, only pre-packed icecream now being sold from the premises.

Samples of icecream are taken when available throughout the year, but principally during the Summer months, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

At the Laboratory the samples are prepared and subjected to the Methylene Blue Reaction Test, and graded into provisional grades varying from 1 to 4.

Samples in provisional grades 1 and 2 may be considered to be satisfactory.

Samples Taken	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
114	93	13	5	2
	106 (93%)		7 (7%)	

The examination of one sample was spoilt by a mis-hap at the Laboratory.

12. MEAT INSPECTION

There is no Regional Abattoir in the District, but there are 18 private slaughterhouses, wherein, during the Winter months 'cottagers' pigs for private consumption are slaughtered under licence issued by the Ministry of Food.

The majority of these pigs are slaughtered over the week-ends, and great difficulty has been experienced in arranging for inspection.

In past years when the Local Food Office was at Narborough, information was received weekly from the Food Executive Officer, giving particulars of all licences issued, including place and approximate date of slaughter. Such policy enabled arrangements to be made to examine a high percentage of the pigs slaughtered.

Unfortunately, with the closure of the Local Food Office, such information was not forthcoming during 1952 from the central Food Office in Leicester, with the result that only when notification was received from the slaughterman, was it possible to carry out proper inspection of the meat.

During the year 62 pigs were inspected, 39 visits being made for such purpose.

1 pig was wholly condemned for Generalised Tuberculosis. In 3 pigs certain parts and organs were condemned for Localised Tuberculosis.

Meat Shops

54 visits were made to Dutchers Shops and meat preparing premises.

13. FOOD PREMISES and INSPECTION

534 visits were made to premises where food, other than meat, is kept or prepared for sale, the majority being retail foodshops.

In the closing months of the year, a survey was commenced of all foodshops in the District with a view to bringing them up to approved standard, particular attention being directed to adequate hot water supply for washing facilities.

Many of the small provision shops in the District are run as family concerns, no assistants being employed. In such cases the normal washing facilities provided for the house premises have been accepted as being adequate and within reasonable distance of the food premises.

In many cases, however, a constant supply of hot water was not available, and the occupier was required to install either a gas or electric water heater, or where there already existed a domestic hot water supply, an immersion heater for use in the Summer months.

62 such notices were issued in 1952.

Situated in the District is a large food store, the main distribution depot of a large combine of wholesale provision merchants. The opinion of your Sanitary Inspectors is often sought concerning the condition of foodstuffs in this depot.

Foods surrendered and condemnedWeight (approx.)

132 tins Canned Meat	487 lbs.
261 " " Vegetables	207 "
63 " " Fish	24 "
31 " " Milk	29 "
10 " " Soup	7 "
635 " " Fruit	864 "
5 " " Jam	5 "
Cheese	24 "
Sandwich Spread	1 "
Prunes	70 "
Rice	32 "
Semolina	360 "
Bacon	6 "

Total weight

2,116 lbs.14. HOUSING(A) New Houses

The following information relating to new houses and Council houses has been obtained from other Departments -

Houses completed during year	Type		Average Cost per house	Average rent (Exclusive of rates)
	Prefabricated Permanent	Permanent		
Council	-	195	£1,457	17/11 per week
Private Enterprise	-	29	£1,750	(£105.0s.0d. per annum $\frac{6}{100}$ %)
Houses in course of erection at 31.12.52				
Council	-	86	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	95	-	-

Total Number of Post-War Houses Completed

Council	-	839
Private Enterprise		521

Total Number of Applicants for Council Houses at end of year	647
Number of new applications received during year	163

(B) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during Year

- (1) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 578
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932 0 *
(* All dwellings in District with R.V. £16 and under have already been recorded under Housing Survey)
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 24 +
(+ These have already been recorded and scheduled for action when circumstances permit)
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 152

(C) Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	62
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(D) Action under Statutory Powers during Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
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(a) by owners	None
(b) by Council in default of owners	None

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
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(a) by owners	6
(b) by Council in default of owners	None

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
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(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
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(d) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
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(E) Housing Act, 1936, Part IV Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	9
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	12
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	76

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	3
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(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	62

In addition 26 cases of overcrowding, due to insufficient bedroom accommodation, involving 101 persons, were relieved.

(F) Housing Summary

(a) Total number of occupied houses in District	12,106
(b) Total number of Council houses in District	1,271

(G) Housing Act, 1949

Number of applications for reconditioning grants not granted.	-	1
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(H) General Remarks on Housing

Although the number of new applications for Council houses in 1952 showed an increase over the figure for the previous year, nevertheless the total number of applicants still awaiting Council houses was considerably lower at the end of the year.

This was undoubtedly due to the excellent progress made in the erection of Council houses, and possibly the easing of restrictions on private building had also some effect.

The easing of the demand, enabled the Council at last to make a start on the re-housing of families from unfit dwellings, and the commencement of action for the demolition of the vacated dwellings.

In the later months of the year, Official Representations on the unfitness of 9 dwellings were made under the provisions of Section 11 Housing Act, 1936, and by the end of the year the Council had made Demolition Orders in respect of 4 of such dwellings, whilst similar action in respect of the other 5 was pending.

Bearing in mind that there are still over 400 dwellings classified in the District for demolition, it is to be hoped that circumstance will enable the rehousing and demolition programme to be accelerated from this modest start.

The impracticability of action for the comprehensive repair and reconditioning of tenanted houses, gives much cause for frustration and anxiety.

There are over 1,000 houses in the District needing reconditioning to bring them up to the 1919 standard of fitness for habitation, and well over 2,000 houses falling below the standard for improved dwellings set out under the Housing Act, 1949.

The repair Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, was designed to operate in prewar conditions, when the cost of repairs and reconditioning was reasonable when compared with the value of the tenanted house. The value of a tenanted house nowadays is dependant on the rental return, and whilst this has remained practically constant since 1936, the cost of building work has increased almost threefold.

It is obvious, therefore, that there must be some amendment to the existing law to enable the Council and its responsible officers to carry out their statutory duties for the repair and reconditioning of houses.

When the 1949 Housing Act came into operation it was hoped that improvements grants, made under Section 20, would encourage owners and landlords to recondition and improve their dwelling houses, but in general the Act has failed to do so.

It would appear that there is need for a review of the Section, to remove unnecessary restrictions and to simplify procedure, so that more fuller use may be made of the provisions.

15. MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The easing of restrictions on private building has enabled several families, living in caravans on their own plots in the District, now to have their own permanent homes built.

Due to financial and other circumstances however, there appears to be an increase in the number of families, particularly young married couples, who decide to purchase a caravan for use as a home, and these are no doubt influenced by advertising and sales technique, and the particular amenities of the modern caravan.

The close proximity of the Blaby Rural District to the City of Leicester, wherein there are very few caravan sites, has resulted in a tendency for an over-spill of a caravan population into the area.

Whereas the modern living type caravan, suitably sited, may provide a desirable and convenient home, it must be acknowledged that it can only provide a semi-permanent home in exceptional circumstances, and that it must be considered only suitable for temporary housing in most cases.

The stationing of a movable dwelling in the District requires approval under Planning as to suitability of site and preservation of existing amenities, and licensing under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to sanitary circumstances and conditions.

It is unfortunate that many purchasers of caravans have not been aware of the legal requirements in connection with the stationing and use for habitation of movable dwellings, with the result that not only have they eventually become seriously inconvenienced, but in contravening the provisions of the Public Health Act, have laid themselves open to having proceedings taken against them at Court.

There are no approved or licensed caravan or camping sites in the District.

Licences, however, have been issued to individual caravan dwellers, to station single caravans on suitable single plots, such licences being issued annually and expiring in every case on the 30th June in the year.

At the end of 1952 there were 21 such licensed movable dwellings stationed in the District.

16. FACTORIES

In addition to Agriculture, the District has a considerable number of industries, there being 156 Factories entered on the Register.

The principal industries and manufactures in the District are -

Boots and Shoes	Hosiery
Leather Dressing	Knitwear
Leather Washers	Dyeing
Toe Puffs	Cardboard Boxes
Electrical Components	Printing
Photographic Equipment	Food Preparation
Light Engineering	Joinery and Sawmilling
Motor Vehicles Repair	Artificial Stone, Concrete Products
Coach Building	Concrete Pipes
Bricks and Tiles	Sand Quarrying
Stone Quarrying	

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	7	6	-	-
Factories with Mechanical Power	149	40	6	-
Other Premises included under Act	8	8	-	-

In general the sanitary conditions in the factories in the District are good, particulars of defects found are set out below -

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars of Defects	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector	From H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	3	3	-	-	-
Total	8	6	0	1	0

Fire Escape Certificates

Certificates under Section 34, Factories Act, 1937, were issued by the Council in respect of three Factories certifying the provision of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Outworkers

Section 110 Factories Act, 1937, requires the occupier of every factory to send to the District Council during the months of February and August each year, copies of a list showing all outworkers so employed by him during the preceding six months.

The lists received show that various firms in the District as well as the City of Leicester and Urban Districts of Hinckley and Wigston, mostly engaged in the making of wearing apparel, employ outworkers residing in the Blaby Rural District.

No case of infectious disease was noted at any of the addresses of these outworkers, and no case of work in unwholesome premises was noted.

Outworkers - August Return 1952

Nature of Work	Outworkers employed by firms in District	Outworkers employed by firms outside District
<u>Wearing Apparel</u>		
Hosiery	18	32
Hats and Shoes	11	3
Knitwear	18	1
Gloves	0	7
Clothing	2	11
	49	54
Electrical Equipment	1	0
Total	50	54
Total	104	

There were no cases of firms in the District defaulting in sending lists of outworkers to the Council.

17. PETROLEUM

The Council is the authority for the licensing and control of Petroleum Stores under the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

Petroleum Spirit is stored principally in the District in underground tanks, generally at garages and petrol filling stations, but Petroleum Mixtures, which are commonly used in connection with Boot and Shoe Manufacture, and at Spray-painting Plants are stored at various premises in the District in compartments above ground.

It is essential that such storage places be of approved construction to minimise the risk of fire or explosion, and in this direction much work has been done during the year in having present storage arrangements improved.

Before any licence is issued by the Council in respect of any new petroleum store or underground tank, the installation has to comply in every respect with the proper specifications as required by the Act; all underground tanks being surrounded by sand, contained in a properly lined pit, and the installation tested under pressure.

Number of Petroleum Licences issued 1952	62
Total fees collected in respect of same	£46. 10s. Od.

